

What is claimed is:

1. An air mattress comprising:

a first inflatable compartment having a length and width, when inflated, sufficient to support a human body, said compartment having a top, a bottom, and sides, said first compartment being composed of at least two layers of vinyl, one layer of vinyl forming the top of the compartment and the second forming the bottom; and

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a second inflatable compartment disposed on the top of the first inflatable compartment and secured thereto at least along a portion of the first inflatable compartment, said second compartment extending generally the length and width of the top of the first compartment, said second compartment being of a size, when inflated, sufficient to support a human body;

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said second compartment being composed of at least two layers of vinyl distinct from the two layers of vinyl forming the first compartment; said second compartment being inflatable to give the top of the air mattress a soft, pillow-like appearance and feel.

2. The air mattress as set forth in claim 1 wherein said first compartment and said second compartment are secured together adjacent a fluid communication channel connecting the first and second compartments.

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3. The air mattress as set forth in claim 1 wherein the bottom layer of the said second compartment is secured to the top of the upper layer of the first compartment.

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4. The air mattress as set forth in claim 1 wherein the second compartment has a soft, non-vinyl fabric secured to the top thereof.

5. The air mattress as set forth in claim 1 wherein the first and second compartments are in fluid communication with each other.

6. The air mattress as set forth in claim 1 wherein the vinyl layers composing the second compartment are secured together by a plurality of ribs extending between the top of the second compartment and the bottom of the second compartment.

7. The air mattress as set forth in claim 6 wherein the ribs extend transversely across the second compartment, said second compartment having channels for flow of air around or through the ribs.

8. The air mattress as set forth in claim 1 wherein the first and second compartments are substantially free to move with respect to each other except at the periphery thereof.

9. The air mattress as set forth in claim 1 wherein the first compartment has ribs extending between the layers of vinyl making up the first compartment, and wherein the second compartment has ribs extending between the layers of vinyl making up the second compartment.

10. The air mattress as set forth in claim 9 wherein the ribs of the first compartment are substantially taller than the ribs of the second compartment.

11. The air mattress as set forth in claim 10 wherein the ribs of the first compartment are at least twenty-five per cent taller than the ribs of the second compartment.

12. The air mattress as set forth in claim 9 wherein the ribs of the first and second compartments are composed of vinyl.

13. The air mattress as set forth in claim 1 wherein the first compartment and the second compartment are sealed together at a point recessed from the periphery of the first compartment, thereby permitting limited relative movement of the second compartment with respect to the first compartment along the edge of the mattress.

14. The air mattress as set forth in claim 13 wherein the seal is recessed approximately one inch.

15. The air mattress as set forth in claim 1 wherein the vinyl layers of the second compartment are connected together by a first vinyl strip extending between the layers along the periphery of the second compartment, and the vinyl layers of the first compartment are connected together by a second vinyl strip extending between the layers along the periphery of the first compartment.

16. The air mattress as set forth in claim 1 wherein the only access to the interior of the first and second compartments for inflation of both compartments is through a single valve.

17. The air mattress as set forth in claim 16 wherein the single valve is disposed in a wall of the first compartment.

18. The air mattress as set forth in claim 1 further including a pump for inflating and/or deflating the first and second compartments.

19. The air mattress as set forth in claim 18 wherein the pump is permanently attached to a valve disposed in a wall of the first or second compartment.

20. The air mattress as set forth in claim 18 wherein the pump is removably attachable to a valve disposed in a wall of the first or second compartment.

21. The air mattress as set forth in claim 1 wherein the second compartment has a single peripheral seam.

22. The air mattress as set forth in claim 1 wherein the second compartment has at least two seams.

23. The air mattress as set forth in claim 1 wherein the two layers of the second compartment are secured together at a plurality of discontinuous positions.

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